

REMARKS

INTRODUCTION

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 1 and 3 have been amended. Claim 2 has been cancelled. Claims 1 and 3-5 are pending and under consideration.

EXAMINER PHONE CALL

The Applicants extend their thanks to the Examiner for the courtesy shown to their representative during the phone call on December 9, 2010. In the phone call, possible claim language that may structurally distinguish over the relied upon reference was discussed.

CLAIM REJECTIONS – 112

Claims 1-5 were rejected under 35 USC 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement.

Claim 1 has been amended to remove the “fixed baffle” language of claim 1 that was noted by the Examiner as not being supported by the specification.

Withdrawal of the foregoing rejection is requested.

CLAIM REJECTIONS – 103

Claims 1-5 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kim et al. (KR 2002-0012368) (hereinafter “Kim”).

Claims 1-5

Amended claim 1 recites: “...a water flow speed reduction member positioned between an end of the silver member located at the outlet of the housing, which is connected to the detergent supply device, and the outlet of the housing, the water flow speed reduction member being positioned inside and on the bottom of the housing and having a fixed U-shaped structure opened toward the silver members.” Support for this amendment may be found in at least original claim 2 and Figure 3 of the present application.

The Office Action relies on Kim to show this feature of claim 1, and specifically relies on the opening created in the storage tank 31 when the valve 40 of Kim is opened.

The Office Action further notes that it appears that Figure 3 of the present application distinguishes over the structure shown in Kim, but in its previous form claim 1 did not positively recite structure distinguishing over Kim.

As shown above, claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the water flow speed reduction member is positioned **inside** and on the bottom of the housing and has a **fixed U-shaped structure opened toward the silver members**.

Although Kim shows a solenoid discharge valve 40 having a cut-off plate 43, the discharge valve 40 is by definition not fixed and also not positioned inside the housing. Still further, the structure of the discharge valve 40 having a cut-off plate 43 shown in Kim does not obviate a U-shaped structure as recited in claim 1. Still further, it is respectfully submitted that the structure discussed in Kim is directed to supplying the sterilizing water to the washing tub by opening and closing the outlet. By contrast, claim 1 relies on a water flow speed reduction member positioned inside and on the bottom of the housing and has a fixed U-shaped structure opened toward the silver members to slow the flow water through the housing, instead of a moving solenoid discharge valve 40 as in Kim.

For at least the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 patentably distinguishes over Kim.

Claim 2 has been cancelled. Claims 3-5 depend on claim 1 and are therefore believed to be allowable for at least the foregoing reason.

Withdrawal of the foregoing rejection is requested.

CONCLUSION

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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